



# Performance Plan 2020-21



**This performance plan outlines the regulatory and advisory major work program for 2020-21 for the Essential Services Commission (Commission). The regulatory and advisory work undertaken by the Commission is supported by the corporate work program.**

## The Commission

The Commission is a statutory authority established as an independent economic regulator and advisory body under the Essential Services Commission Act 2002 (**ESC Act**).

The Commission's primary objective, as set out in the ESC Act, is the:

'...protection of the long-term interests of South Australian consumers with respect to the price, quality and reliability of essential services'.

The ESC Act and various industry acts together provide the Commission with regulatory and advisory powers and functions.

The Commission regulates the provision of essential services in the [water and sewerage](#), [electricity](#), [gas](#), [maritime](#) and [rail](#) industries, and is the administrator of [Retailer Energy Efficiency Scheme \(REES\)](#). The Commission conducts formal public [inquiries](#) and provides advice to the South Australian Government on economic and regulatory matters. The Commission also has a new role in determining funding arrangements for infrastructure delivery schemes established by the South Australian Government.

Each industry regulated by the Commission has a dedicated page on its [website](#). These pages provide detailed information about the Commission's roles and functions in each industry.

## Strategy 2020-2023

The Commission's Strategy 2020-2023 (**Strategy**) is due to be released in April 2020.

The Strategy will outline the changing environment for economic regulation and how the Commission

will work with regulated entities and add value in protecting the long-term interests of consumers.

Further information about the Commission's regulatory and advisory functions, and how the Commission engages and consults with stakeholders, can be found within the Strategy and the Commission's Charter of Consultation and Regulatory Practice (**Charter**).

A copy of the [Strategy](#) and [Charter](#) can be found at the Commission's website.

## Performance Plan 2020-21

The Performance Plan 2020-21 (**Plan**) has been prepared pursuant to Section 23 of the ESC Act.

The Plan sets out the Commission's key regulatory and advisory projects of the statutory annual work program and is provided to the Treasurer for approval along with the Commission's Budget for 2020-21.

## Corporate work program

At the Commission, the regulatory and advisory work is supported by the corporate work program, which includes, but is not limited to, legal and corporate governance support, finance and budget management, strategy and performance planning and reporting, workforce and wellbeing initiatives, and information technology and systems support.

The Commission is committed to continuous improvement of all corporate support services with a focus on opportunities to improve key business systems, policies and processes to provide best value to the Commission, our stakeholders and consumers.

## Performance Plan 2020-21 – major projects and ongoing work program

No.	Industry	Major project / ongoing program	Requirement/outcome
1	Water	SA Water Regulatory Determination 2024: Framework and approach	Develop the framework and approach that will be applied for SA Water Regulatory Determination 2024.
2	Electricity	Review of Electricity Transmission Code reliability standards 2023-2028	Review of the Electricity Transmission Code to apply to ElectraNet from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2028.
3	Electricity	Review chapter 3 of the Electricity Distribution Code (embedded generation)	Review requirements for connection of generators to a distribution network, where the National Electricity Rules do not apply.
4	Electricity	Review Prepayment Metering System Code	Review the electricity prepayment metering code.
5	REES	Administer the Retailer Energy Efficiency Scheme (REES)	Ensure the efficient administration of the REES by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Determining achievements of REES targets for 2019 year and consider penalty scheme if required</li> <li>▶ Review and assess compliance plans</li> <li>▶ Apportion targets</li> <li>▶ Annual reporting and timeseries data</li> <li>▶ Undertake audits and compliance/enforcement action as required</li> </ul>
6	REES	REES 2021	Implement recommendations from the Department of Energy and Mining review of REES, including the review of the REES Code, policy and IT system changes.
7	Infrastructure	Infrastructure delivery scheme	Determine arrangements for infrastructure delivery scheme established by the State Government, as required.
8	Water, Electricity and Gas	Small Scale Network Inquiry: implementation	Develop and implement revised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ licensee categories</li> <li>▶ regulatory frameworks</li> <li>▶ reporting frameworks, and</li> <li>▶ consumer protection frameworks</li> </ul> in context with the Small Scale Network Inquiry outcomes.
9	Water, Electricity and Gas	Cost-benefit assessment of the licensing process	Complete cost-benefit assessment on the effectiveness and simplification of the licensing framework.
10	Water, Electricity and Gas	Administer the Commission's authorising framework (licences and exemptions)	Ensure licence and authorisation arrangements for regulated entities across industries are robust and protect consumers, including assessment of, and preparing recommendations in respect of, applications.
11	Water, Electricity and Gas	Consumer Advisory Committee	Administer the Consumer Advisory Committee pursuant to the Electricity Act 1996, Gas Act 1997 and Water Industry Act 2012.
12	Electricity and Gas	Administer the Commission's regulatory reporting framework	Monitor, analyse and report on regulated entities' performance, including reporting to the Minister for Energy and Mining on various retail pricing issues.
13	Rail	Review of intrastate rail access regime 2020-2025.	Complete the five-year review of the effectiveness of the intrastate rail access regime, including advice to SA Government.

No.	Industry	Major project / ongoing program	Requirement/outcome
14	Rail	Review of revenues under the Tarcoola-Darwin rail access regime 2013-2018	Complete the five-year review of revenues under the Tarcoola-Darwin rail access regime.
15	All	Administer the Commission's compliance and enforcement frameworks	Ensure there is effective monitoring of, and compliance by, regulated entities.
16	All	Conduct Part 7 ESC Act Inquiries	Conduct public inquiries initiated by the Commission (into any matters within our regulatory scope), by the Treasurer (into any matter) or by an industry Minister (into any matter concerning a regulated industry).
17	All	Provide advice to SA Government under section 5(f) of the ESC Act	Provide independent advice on economic and regulatory matters.
18	All	Liaison with stakeholders including industry and consumers.	Undertake stakeholder consultation in line with the Commission's Charter of Consultation and Regulatory Practice.
19	All	Post-project evaluation reviews	Undertake post-project evaluation reviews, including SA Water Regulatory Determination 2020: Evaluation of process to implement learnings into the SA Water RD24 framework and approach.
20	All	Refine and implement verification and enforcement framework	Develop principles, objectives, indicators of success, resource materials, system, process and control requirements and stakeholder engagement program.
21	All	Regulatory Intelligence Project - stage 1	Build a data platform and create a critical thinking, data and intelligence environment which adheres to the regulatory direction of the Commission.
22	Corporate	Corporate statutory work program	<p>Ensure all corporate statutory work is completed within the required timeframes, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Annual Report 2019-20 (including Third Party Water, Rail and Ports) and financial statements</li> <li>▶ Annual and quarterly reporting to SA Government</li> <li>▶ Strategy 2021-2024</li> <li>▶ Performance Plan and Budget 2021-22</li> <li>▶ Legal and corporate governance (including legislative compliance) advice</li> <li>▶ Budget management, finance, risk management and procurement</li> <li>▶ Workforce, including payroll, learning and development, performance management and work, health and safety</li> <li>▶ Executive and secretariat - Commission, Leadership Team, Consumer Advisory Committee and Power Line Undergrounding Committee</li> <li>▶ Administrative support, library, document, publication, and media and communication</li> <li>▶ Information technology, information management including records management and assets services</li> <li>▶ Corporate policy reviews</li> </ul>